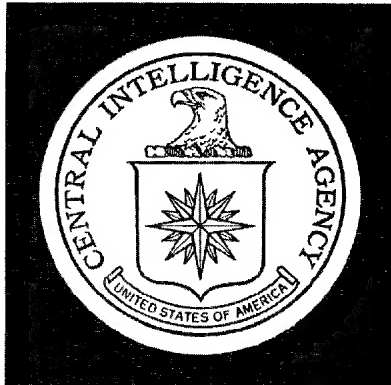


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DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam

Top Secret

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13 June 1967

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Information as of 1600
13 June 1967

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HIGHLIGHTS

Cambodia has granted full diplomatic status to the DRV and will accord the Liberation Front diplomatic status in return for Vietnamese Communist recognition of Cambodia's present borders.

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II. Political Developments in South Vietnam:

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The Provisional National Assembly has voted to reschedule the senate election to 3 September, the same day as the presidential election (Para. 6). Presidential candidate Tran Van Huong announced, during an exclusive Saigon press interview on 12 June, that he had chosen Buddhist layman Mai Tho Truyen as his running mate (Para. 7).

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IV. Other Communist Military Developments:
There is nothing of significance to report.

V. Communist Political Developments: There is nothing of significance to report.

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VI. Other Major Aspects: Sihanouk has granted full diplomatic status to North Vietnam and will give diplomatic status to the NFLSV (Paras. 1-3).

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I. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

1. The comparative lull in major ground action in South Vietnam continued today, with no significant engagements reported.

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National Assembly Reschedules Senate Elections

6. According to an unconfirmed Reuters report, the Provisional National Assembly voted on 13 June to reschedule the senate election for 3 September, the same day as the presidential election. In drafting the electoral law, the assembly had fixed the date for upper house election as 17 December, but the Directorate has been making strong representations, most recently in the form of a formal request on 9 June, for holding the two elections simultaneously.

Tran Van Huong Announces Running Mate

7. In an interview with the Saigon Daily News, held in Vung Tau on 12 June, civilian presidential candidate Tran Van Huong announced that southern Buddhist lay leader Mai Tho Truyen would be his running mate. Huong said he had chosen Truyen in an effort to dispel the belief among some people that he is anti-Buddhist and that he oppressed the Buddhists during his term as premier between October 1964 and January 1965. He insisted that he is neither anti-Buddhist nor regionalistic and added that he and Truyen will "uphold the principle of standing outside political parties and religious organizations."

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IV. OTHER COMMUNIST MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

V. COMMUNIST POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. There is nothing of significance to report.

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VI. OTHER MAJOR ASPECTS

1. Cambodia apparently has granted full diplomatic recognition to North Vietnam. According to Phnom Penh press reports, Sihanouk stated on 13 June that the DRV's diplomatic mission has been upgraded to full diplomatic status as a result of Hanoi's 8 June statement recognizing Cambodia's territorial integrity within its "present borders." He indicated that the two countries have agreed to exchange ambassadors. Sihanouk also stated that the Viet Cong's Liberation Front will soon be accorded "diplomatic status" in Phnom Penh because it issued a similar statement on 31 May.

2. The Communist statements were apparently in response to a call made by Sihanouk for international recognition of Cambodia's borders. There is no indication that the Communists have made any concessions on the actual delimitation of Cambodia's "present borders," however. During abortive negotiations last fall, they refused to sign an agreement defining the border, contending that delimitation of the boundary must be held in abeyance until the end of the Vietnam war.

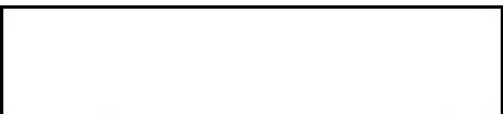
3. The present broad statements of recognition will help the Communists offset the effects of Sihanouk's current campaign against the Cambodian left, which has been accompanied by frequent allusions to the malevolent influence of the "Viet Minh." They will also serve to reinforce Sihanouk's belief that Cambodia has more to gain in working with the Communists than with an unresponsive South Vietnamese Government.

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